

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, June 1, 1995

Published Since 1877

Fighting the heat ...

North Carolina volunteers go to work in Greenville

By Sharon Reece Neff

It was a typically hot Delta spring day, a promise of what was to come in the summer.

While many were indoors seeking relief from the heat, a group of

volunteers from Nations Ford Church in Charlotte, N.C., were busy working at two houses in Greenville.

Most of the volunteers were not

construction workers, but they were painting and repairing — almost rebuilding — part of one house and reroofing another.

They worked with a joy that only the love of God could give them in the heat. One worker said, "We do this for fun."

The group was in Greenville working with Eddie Jones, pastor of Victory Temple Church, as part of the Mississippi River Ministry. Jones and Nations Ford pastor Phillip Davis have been friends for a long time.

There was "quite a diversity" of occupations in the group, according to engineer Larry Morris, a member of Nations Ford. Occupations represented included shipping clerk, sales representative, insurance benefits expert, and beautician.

By the end of the week about 40 people had come to help, most taking vacation time.

Area restaurants helped with free food, and First Church, Greenville, provided sleeping accommodations.

The Nations Ford group also donated more than \$6,000 in materials to the project.

In addition to the construction work, volunteers led children's activities at Victory Temple for several afternoons. The Nations Ford group led leadership training conferences for Victory Temple members to help them improve their church programs and ministries.

Thirty to forty children from a nearby elementary school crowded into the church for after-school

videos, Bible stories, and refreshments.

A youth worker from Nations Ford went through the neighborhoods trying to make a contact for Christ with youths he encountered.

One afternoon as Morris took a break from his renovation work, he became dismayed at the young people who just sat around and watched the workers — or drove by and taunted them.

He looked at the rundown neighborhood and commented that an outside group can help but can't make permanent changes.

"People must change their own situations," he said.

The Nations Ford volunteers ended the busy week with a celebration time with Victory Temple members. They recalled and evaluated the week's work, praying

that they had accomplished something for the Lord and been role models for this Delta community.

As one worker put it, "We hope we've been a blessing."

For information on ongoing Victory Temple Church activities under the Mississippi River Ministry, pastor Jones can be contacted at P.O. Box 4905, Greenville, MS 38704-4905.

Individuals and organizations interested in participating in Mississippi River Ministry projects can contact the Missions Extension and Association Administration Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Neff is a member of First Church, Greenville.



Members of Nations Ford Church in Charlotte, N.C., perform both inside and outside rehabilitation work on a house in Greenville as part of a ministry project that included Victory Temple Church, Greenville, and the Mississippi River Ministry. In addition to the construction work, volunteers from the two churches conducted leadership training conferences for local church leaders, after-school activities for children, and neighborhood canvassing for church prospects. Their hot, humid week in the Mississippi Delta didn't deter Nations Ford workers from planning a return trip next summer.

Ala. board questions audits

MOBILE, Ala. (BP) — The Alabama Convention's state board of missions has voted to exclude the University of Mobile from the 1996 state budget unless it complies with an agreement from last year's annual convention meeting.

An ad hoc subcommittee that has been studying the university's Latin American Branch Campus (LABC) in Nicaragua recommended the university "not be included in the normal, traditional convention budgeting procedures for 1996" until it submits a report from its auditor saying the audit is based on "all material disclosures required by generally accepted accounting principles" and complying with the subcommittee's report to the convention last November.

Rick Cagle, pastor of First Church, Gadsden, and chairman of the University of Mobile's trustees, said the recommendation was "pure politics" and neither the state convention office nor the subcommittee had "adequately" communicated with the university.

Best Sellers at Baptist Book Stores/Lifeway Christian Stores

Hardback

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper | James Dobson |
| 2. Experiencing God | Blackaby/King |
| 3. When God Whispers Your Name | Max Lucado |
| 4. Finishing Touch | Charles Swindoll |
| 5. When God Doesn't Make Sense | James Dobson |
| 6. He Still Moves Stones | Max Lucado |
| 7. Life on the Edge | James Dobson |
| 8. Love for a Lifetime | James Dobson |
| 9. His Needs, Her Needs | Willard Harley |
| 10. In the Hands of the Potter | Dale Evans Rogers |

Paperback

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. And the Angels Were Silent | Max Lucado |
| 2. Only Angels Can Wing It | Liz Curtis Higgs |
| 3. What Happens When Women Pray | E. Christenson |
| 4. Mama, Get the Hammer | Barbara Johnson |
| 5. What the Bible Is All About | Henrietta Mears |
| 6. Woman, Thou Art Loosed | T.J. Jakes |
| 7. God Came Near | Max Lucado |
| 8. Six Hours One Friday | Max Lucado |
| 9. No Wonder They Call Him Savior | Max Lucado |
| 10. Planet Earth 2,000 AD | Hal Lindsey |

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Mississippi Brotherhood's disaster relief van is requested to serve as the first aid station in Columbus during official ceremonies marking the opening of the multi-billion dollar Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

20 years ago

Mississippi Baptists kick off the "Decade of Advance" campaign to reach unsaved people and new residents with a series of 14 educational meetings scheduled in every section of the Magnolia state.

50 years ago

MBCB executive secretary D.A. "Scotch" McCall leaves on an extended trip to visit Baptist work in Alaska, but wartime rules prohibit the reporting of his schedule or specific dates that he will be in the northernmost state.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Our window to the world

What would the flow of religious information be in our state without **The Baptist Record**? Since 1877, when J.B. Gambrell started **The Baptist Record**, it has been a vital partner in Baptist life in Mississippi. How would we get our news about Baptists without this paper? Radio or television — not likely; computer — not yet; outside sources, hardly! News is a vital link in all we do.

It is no secret that things are changing in the print world. **The Baptist Record** is not about to pass off the scene, but there is a danger of having to scale back our operation.

Last year the cost of postage went up by 22%. Our postage bill for the third week in May 1994 was \$7,820; today (the third week in May) it is \$9,612. This spring the cost of paper was increased by 11% and for us, this means a \$2,500 printing increase each month.

The Baptist Record is still the fourth largest Baptist paper in the U.S. We print more than 106,000

copies of the paper each week — which takes a lot of ink, paper, and postage.

In spite of their importance, most Baptist state papers have had a decline in circulation. The subscriptions are not coming in. Some point to a lack of denominational loyalty as being the culprit, but the fact is that most papers and magazines are showing a decline.

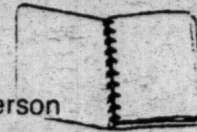
Many people depend on other sources for their news. Baptists are not as interested in Baptists as in previous days. Perhaps more interest could be created if they received the state paper. New families who join your church should be immediately placed on your **Baptist Record** mailing list. We urge pastors and finance committees to see that **The Baptist Record** is part of your budget. For historical reasons, for continuity of our work, and for the catalyst that holds us to our purpose, churches need to support the state paper.

It is essential that we hold the

subscription fee at a price where our people can afford it. Churches are urged to put **The Baptist Record's** "Every Family Plan" in the church budget. About half of all churches in Mississippi are presently in this plan.

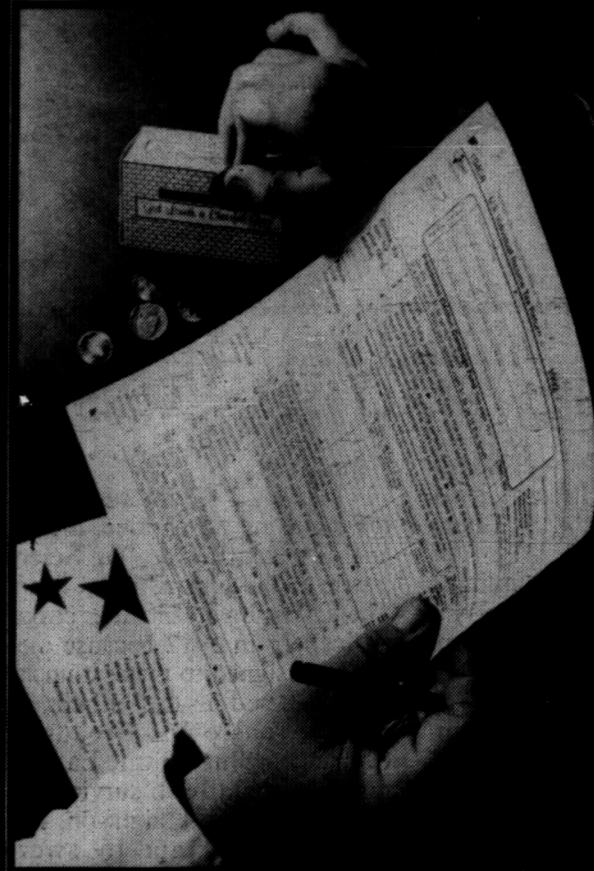
That cost means a family in your church can still get a month's worth of news for less than the price of a soft drink. About 25% of Mississippi churches do not participate in any of the cost-saving plans of **The Baptist Record**. This is an urgent appeal to pastors and people to support **The Baptist Record** and provide our membership with the total news of Southern Baptist life.

The stale joke about ignorance and apathy being our major problems provided the "I don't know and I don't care" answer. We believe Mississippi Baptists want to know, and that they are concerned about the effort to win our state and the world to Jesus. Your state paper is a vital part of that effort.



'Render therefore unto Caesar'

(Matthew 22:21)



Observe Religious Liberty Sunday

June 4, 1995

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

Guest Opinion...

"School prayer" is larger issue than courts alone can tackle

By W. Levon Moore

This is an appeal for a larger perspective of the school prayer issue. This highly emotional issue makes great political ammunition for the courts and legislative bodies. Any serious discussion of this matter should focus on three considerations:

First, the nature of prayer. True prayer is personal communication between an individual and God. In its basic meaning, prayer is spiritual, not secular; it is inner, not outer; it is individual, not corporate; it is silent, not vocal. In its broader meaning, all these elements are included. For example, prayer may be expressed corporately and vocally, but these outward manifestations do not constitute the real essence of prayer.

True prayer cannot be defined by the courts, nor can it be manipulated by legislative bodies. It cannot be mandated, controlled, or prohibited. The true believer can pray any time and in any place. Therefore, children can pray in public schools, if they have been taught to understand the true meaning of prayer.

The public expression of this private experience is appropriate

in many settings; but because of the broad diversity of religious convictions in our nation, it becomes increasingly difficult for any one religion to be given special preference. In this climate, conflicts can be avoided only when prayer is privately experienced, and publicly expressed in homes, and in areas provided by such organizations as churches, temples, cathedrals, or synagogues.

Second, the nature of God. Frequently, we hear the statement, "God has been taken out of the schools." This reveals an immature concept of God. A sovereign God cannot be manipulated by human beings. He cannot be placed in, or taken out of, the school like a text book, a lunch pail, or a pair of sneakers.

God does not "dwell in temples made with hands," but he resides within the lives of his people. God is omnipresent in the world which he created. His presence cannot be extinguished by school policies, court actions, or legislative decisions. Only the human heart can deny God a dwelling place.

Third, the nature of the spiritual task. Homes and churches should not expect public secular institutions to perform their spiritual responsibilities. Parents, ministers, rabbis, and priests should teach children the true nature of prayer. Only then will children be able to exercise and enjoy this private spiritual privilege wherever they go.

Godly parents are concerned that moral and spiritual values are taught in the schools. However, those same parents should believe and practice moral and spiritual values, and teach them to their children in the home. Laws are designed to protect the rights and freedoms of all religious groups, not to propagate the doctrines and practices of any one group to the exclusion of all others.

The prayer issue is not a legal or political matter. It is a personal spiritual privilege which can be abridged only by the failure of parents and spiritual leaders to teach children the true meaning of prayer.

Moore is retired director of missions for the Attala Association. He lives in Kosciusko.

THE FRAGMENTS



The art of criticism

Several times I have been the recipient of a copy of Aesop's story on pleasing everyone.

Aesop tells the fable of the man and boy going to market with their donkey. As they walked along, someone said, "You fools, what is a donkey for but to ride upon?" So the man put the boy on the donkey. Before long they came upon someone who said, "Look at that lazy boy! He rides while his poor father walks."

So the man made his son get off the donkey, and he got on. But they hadn't gone far when they passed some women who said, "Shame on that lazy man! He rides while his poor little boy has to walk."

Well, the man didn't know what to do. Finally, he pulled his son up with him, and they both rode the donkey into town.

No sooner had they arrived at

the edge of the city when a group of people began criticizing the man and boy for overloading the donkey.

Not knowing what to do now, the man stopped, cut down a pole, tied the donkey's feet, and the man and boy carried the donkey the rest of the way to the market.

The moral of the story is: Please all, and you will please none!

The writer of Proverbs discovered this and much more long before Aesop discovered the quill. One that disturbs this editor says, "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him" (Prov. 18:13). There are two or more sides to every question, and "to do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice" (Prov. 21:3).

"Oh, Lord, help us to look before we leap." — GH

Teachers needed in China

The foreign language training center at Guangxi University in southwest China has issued an urgent request for teachers in its summer conversational English program. No special training or education is required. The five-week course begins July 10. Two hundred Chinese students have already registered for the course. Teachers are responsible for their own travel expenses; the university provides room, board, and weekend area excursions. For more information or to volunteer, call Jean Allgood in Gulfport at (601) 896-1275.

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Circulation Manager.....Renee Walley
Bookkeeper.....Betty Anne Bailey
Layout/Advertising.....Shannon T. Simpson
Proofreader.....Betty Smith
Editor Emeritus.....Don McGregor

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The Baptist Record

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Thursday, June 1, 1995

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Debate continues as vote on SBC structure nears

ATLANTA (ABP) — What's the bottom line on the ambitious plan to restructure the Southern Baptist Convention?

Is it a long-overdue streamlining of the denomination, or simply a mopping-up exercise for the conservative takeover?

A significant change in the way Baptists do their work, or just window dressing?

Cheaper, more efficient decision-making, or a centralization of power in the hands of a few?

A sharper focus on the primary tasks of missions and evangelism, or dangerous tinkering with structures and relationships that have served Southern Baptists well?

Southern Baptists soon will be asked to make up their minds about the massive restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention. The restructure plan will be recommended to messengers at the SBC's annual meeting, scheduled June 20-22 in Atlanta.

The restructure plan, unveiled in February, is the most-discussed item of business going into this year's convention.

The plan was proposed after an 18-month study by a seven-member Program and Structure Study Committee. It was approved in February by the Executive Committee, which will bring it as a recommendation to the SBC Tuesday, June 20. If approved at two consecutive annual meetings, the new structure would be in place by 2000, according to a time line proposed by the study committee.

While parts of the plan have drawn criticism, no organized opposition has developed. And SBC officials say they will discourage any amendments to the plan. That suggests Southern Baptists likely will leave their Atlanta meeting — which will mark the convention's 150th anniversary — with a blueprint for a dramatically different future.

The biggest overhaul in the convention's century-and-a-half history, and the first major study since 1959, the restructuring proposal would reduce the number of SBC agencies and institutions from 19 to 12. Proponents say it will propel the denomination into the 21st century with a leaner organization and sharper focus on missions.

SBC president Jim Henry encouraged Southern Baptists to adopt the changes so the denomination might remain "on the cutting edge of innovation."

"If we don't, we will fossilize and become a denominational dinosaur in the sands of time,"

Henry said.

Mark Brister, chairman of the restructuring committee, drew an analogy from a *Popular Science* article on the sinking of the Titanic. The luxury liner sank after striking an iceberg in 1912 because metal plates designed to make it unsinkable shattered instead of bent, said Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Church in Shreveport, La. Still, the ship could have survived hitting an iceberg straight-on, but a last-ditch attempt to swerve caused the hull to be ripped open, he continued.

"Inflexibility and dodging real issues can be costly," Brister said. "We are convinced that if we confront the issues head on and remain open and flexible, our greatest days as a denomination lie in the journey ahead."

The centerpiece of the plan is a first-ever, overarching mission statement for the convention's work, which puts the emphasis on ministry, not bureaucracy.

"The Southern Baptist Convention exists to facilitate, extend, and enlarge the Great Commission ministries of Southern Baptist churches, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, upon the authority of Holy Scripture and by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit."

The proposal replaces old "program statements," which define the parameters of work for the various SBC agencies, with "ministry assignments" aimed at serving the needs of local churches. "The goal is the fulfillment of ministry — not the accomplishment of mere programs," the report says.

Even critics acknowledge there is much to be commended in the effort to get Baptists beyond business-as-usual in an era of corporate downsizing and waning denominational loyalty. Hardly anyone, apparently, opposes it outright.

Several Baptist leaders, however, have said they have questions about the proposal.

Study committee members respond that some concerns — such as a continuing role in the SBC for Woman's Missionary Union — are unfounded. Other questions, such as cost, they admit are unknown.

Among the most significant and most hotly debated elements of the plan are:

The new North American Mission Board would combine the resources of three existing entities — the Home Mission Board, the Brotherhood Commission, and the Radio and Television Commission.

Borrowing communications skills from the RTVC and mission education/enlistment from the Brotherhood, the North American Mission Board would focus on "reaching the United States and Canada for Christ, using every appropriate means of evangelization and church planting."

The new board would be located in Atlanta. Current Brotherhood Commission offices in Memphis and RTVC offices in Fort Worth would be eliminated.

Unanswered questions include the cost of moving the Radio and Television Commission's expensive studios to another state and how to shoehorn additional personnel into a new HMB headquarter.

"... We will fossilize and become a denominational dinosaur in the sands of time."

— Jim Henry, SBC president

ters building designed for the HMB's 350 employees. Brotherhood currently employs about 80 people and the RTVC has slightly over 100 employees. Architects of the proposal are counting on saving money by eliminating duplication of services.

Another issue is how the proposal affects cooperative work between the North American board and Baptist state conventions. The plan calls for a concentration of missions dollars in states where Southern Baptists comprise less than 10 percent of the total population. The other, more established state conventions would be expected to assume funding for their own mission efforts, which have been funded jointly with the Home Mission Board.

The Missouri Baptist Convention, for example, stands to lose more than \$500,000 a year in Home Mission Board funding. "To stop that in midstream, unilaterally — half a million dollars — would be a disaster for our budget," noted Paul Brooks, president of the state convention.

The Foreign Mission Board would be renamed "International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention."

The proposed name change has received broad acceptance. FMB president Jerry Rankin and others have said the term "foreign" has a patronizing connotation when

relating to other nationalities.

Changes proposed for Woman's Missionary Union have been the most criticized of the restructure committee's plans.

The committee recommends the two mission boards "assume primary responsibility for promoting their own mission offerings," the Lottie Moon foreign mission offering and the Annie Armstrong offering for home missions.

Traditionally, Woman's Missionary Union, an SBC auxiliary, has claimed the lead role in promoting the annual offerings, which provide about half of the support the mission boards receive.

And the restructure gives the WMU's traditional missions-education assignment to the North American Mission Board and the task of providing women's ministries, also previously carried by WMU, to the Sunday School Board.

In a barrage of letters, grassroots WMU members and supporters charged the snub of WMU demeans the 107-year-old auxiliary's contribution to missions.

In April, WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien asked the committee to amend the report by adding WMU's ministry statement. But the committee unanimously refused.

Five Nashville-based denominational agencies would be eliminated: the Stewardship Commission, Education Commission, Historical Commission, Southern Baptist Foundation, and Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary.

The committee wrote: "The proliferation of separate commissions was characteristic of an era of organizational expansion, when separate entities were considered necessary for each distinctive purpose. We believe this impulse should not frame our current denominational strategy or structure."

Stewardship Commission trustees and staff voiced concern about eliminating the agency, citing its good track record in promoting denominational support with very limited budget. With Baptists giving less of their money to churches than in the past and churches keeping a greater share for their own ministries, giving less attention to stewardship would be disastrous, they warn.

The Southern Baptist Foundation, established in 1947, manages assets invested to benefit denominational causes. In the restructured SBC, responsibility for managing that \$167 million would be given to the Executive Committee.

Critics of the change wonder if the professional expertise needed for financial management can be provided by the Executive Committee. Also, the Executive Committee has been at the center of many of the theological-political controversies of the last decade, causing some to question whether that volatile reputation might cause donors to be concerned over the integrity of invested funds.

A tangential concern raised by some observers, as the Executive Committee takes on more responsibility, is centralization of power.

The Executive Committee "was never intended to become a super committee with hierarchal authority, but that is what it has become," Slayden Yarbrough, a professor at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, wrote in the university's newspaper.

"Using its power of allocation and appropriation of funds, it has placed great pressure upon agencies to conform to its political agenda. In so doing, it has violated the bylaws of the SBC constitution... that 'The Executive Committee shall not have authority to control or direct the several boards, agencies and institutions of the Convention. That is the responsibility of trustees elected by the convention and accountable directly to the convention,'" he wrote.

Executive Committee President Morris Chapman said he did not understand why anyone should be concerned about a perceived increase in the power of the Executive Committee. "Southern Baptists have always been careful not to empower any one entity with authority over other entities. The Executive Committee understands that it exists to serve our churches across the country and to be a facilitator among the SBC entities. Nothing in the report gives any added power or leverage," Chapman said.

Some Southern Baptists also are protesting the dissolution of the Historical Commission, which since 1951 has operated the denomination's historical library and archives and produced resources to educate churches about Baptist history and heritage.

Leaders of the various state historical societies around the SBC lined up to protest the abolishment of the commission. State historical groups in Missouri and Virginia also opposed the proposal. And Historical Commission trustees stated in May they "are not in agreement" with the recommendation to dissolve the agency.



Secretaries elect officers

Newly-elected officers of the Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association include (from left) president Elizabeth Godfrey, Fairview Church, Columbus; secretary-treasurer Dot Simmons, Handsboro Church, Gulfport; first vice-president Jamie Luecke, Fairview Church, Columbus; and second vice-president Danie Robbins, Mississippi College, Clinton. The association's newly-created banner (center) was sewn by Lori Crowe of Fairview Church and displayed in the Parade of States at the National Association of Southern Baptist Secretaries annual meeting April 25-28 in Nashville.

Letters to the editor

On Day of Prayer

Editor:

The Lord was faithful as he always is and true to his word to those of us in Mississippi for the National Day of Prayer.

The noon event inside the Capitol state house was blessed. There was a call to prayer on the shofar (ram's horn), the big bell in front of the Capitol was rung, and trumpets were blown. On May 5 at noon, students began reading the Word of God at the Capitol. As reading went up the north, east, and west sides, groups of young people marched around the Capitol praying.

We will again read the Word and praise God from the state Capitol on May 1-4, 1996. On Oct. 26, 1995, I'm making plans to read the New Testament and pray around the state Capitol. Please plan to take part.

Please know that I am so very grateful to every person who took the smallest to the largest part in making Mississippi's National Day of Prayer a success, but of course the true credit goes to our Lord and Savior who did it all as he planned.

I have a special thank-you to Bill Causey, who has been so kind to be an advisor to me. He also encouraged every Southern Baptist church in the state to be a part in any way they could.

National Day of Prayer is not a one-day event in Mississippi but a lifestyle of prayer. Please contact me at P.O. Box 198, Raymond, MS 39154, or telephone (601) 857-5688 to let me know if you want to take part.

Wanda Kay Wigley
Raymond

Easter alternative

Editor:

I agree with (Richard) Green, whose letter in the May 11 *Baptist Record* concerned the secularization of Easter.

I, too, was concerned that we had no religious symbol for cele-

brating Easter, so I prepared a replica of the tomb where Jesus was buried with the words "He is risen."

We should have some such decoration every Easter to remind people why we celebrate Easter.

Leo N. Lewis
DeQuincy, La.

Retain SBC heritage

Editor:

I plead with the SBC's (Program and Structure Study) Committee not to do away with our Historical Commission in Nashville. Maybe downsize it perhaps — but not distribute it to the state conventions or whatever. No!

Everybody's business becomes nobody's business.

We as Baptists have a heritage that needs to be handed down from generation to generation. Our heritage is a tremendous act of God from its conception. I would suggest that the committee visit the Nashville Historical Commission to see what is being prepared.

Southern Baptist churches all over the world have at their fingertips valuable research and help in compiling their histories — also we can get information that we can get nowhere else. This needs to be in one place. Perhaps the Southern Baptist Convention could enlist a historian on this Committee. If the person has a solid background of our heritage he would feel as I do.

Maudaline Quinn Pepper
Greenville

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Minister using cordless telephone discovers privacy thrown to wind

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Think your confidential telephone conversations are private? Better think again if you have a cordless telephone, says a Mississippi minister who found out the hard way.

The minister, who wishes to remain anonymous, recently used the cordless telephone in his residence to share some personal matters with a longtime friend and confidant in another state.

He had no idea that a local electronics buff was using his sophisticated equipment to listen in on the radio waves being transmitted by the cordless telephone. A friend came to him a short time later and told him that his conversation had been overheard.

The minister was even more shocked when his friend related specific details of the telephone conversation that had apparently been spread around town by the electronics buff.

"I was in the den of my home when the conversation took place, and this guy picked it up on his scanner five miles away. I can't describe the feeling of violation, that someone in my community would sit there and listen to other people's conversations and then go out and talk about it," the minister said.

"It was almost voyeuristic. It's certainly

not healthy," he added.

Many people don't understand that their cordless telephones, while convenient, operate on radio waves that can be snatched out of thin air, said Gene Dobbs, administrative assistant for ministry at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and a licensed amateur radio operator for 27 years.

"Each component of a cordless telephone unit has a transmitter and receiver. Anyone with a receiver or sequential-type scanner can listen in," he explained.

Cellular telephones work in much the same way. Dobbs added.

"There are a lot of people out there who get a great deal of satisfaction from listening in on other people's conversations. If the call is confidential or very private, stay off portable telephones," he warned.

That's a point the violated minister won't soon forget. He called local police and the telephone company, only to discover it is not illegal to intercept radio waves.

He has since converted all the telephones in his house to the wired variety that plug directly into the wall.

His advice to cordless telephone owners?

"Don't use them — any time," he said.

Missouri editor Bob Terry to return to native Alabama as Baggett's successor

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP) — Missouri editor Bob Terry has been named editor of the *Alabama Baptist*, newjournal for the Alabama State Convention.

Directors of the paper unanimously elected the new editor May 26 in Birmingham. Terry, 52, succeeds Hudson Baggett, who died last November.

A native of Alabama, Terry has been editor of the Missouri Baptist paper, *Word & Way*, since 1975. Previously he was associate editor of *Western Recorder* in Kentucky from 1968 to 1975.

Born in Decatur, Ala., Terry is a graduate of Mississippi College,

where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1965, and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he received both the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees. He received an honorary doctorate from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., in 1989.

During Terry's Missouri editorship, *Word & Way* won 55 awards for editorial writing, news reporting, photography, graphic design, and general excellence in national and international competitions.

With a reported circulation of 123,000, the *Alabama Baptist* is the second largest of the 39 Southern Baptist state papers, behind the

Baptist Standard of Texas. Established in 1835, only three state papers are older.

Word & Way ranks seventh in circulation among the state papers, with 64,000.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 1, 1995

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Mississippi Baptist Medical & Dental Mission

Nueva Armenia, Honduras

March 3-10, 1995

Norman Bailey - Hattiesburg - Team Captain

Norman Bailey carried a team from Hattiesburg to work in the remote village of Nueva Armenia up on the North Coast of Honduras. This was the first team to work with missionary Ken Cummins, but it surely won't be the last. Ken sees the value of the medical/dental teams in helping his people and strengthening the churches that he works with on the coast. This team was also the first to work with the Garifuna people in establishing a Baptist Church for the National Convention. The Garifunas are a tribe of black people whose religion has been a combination of Catholicism and Paganism. They were a group from slave ships that were imported to the northern bay islands of Honduras and migrated to the north coast. They are a gentle and friendly people who keep their culture very tightly guarded from mingling with other cultures. Their paganism is so fierce (calling up dead spirits for three days to heal the sick in their community) that the Catholic church excommunicated them all and does not recognize them. Demonism and spiritism is still very central to their subculture and certainly a challenge for Baptist missionaries.

Norman's team showed the "Jesus" film, and God's Holy Spirit made a tremendous impact on this little community. There were 189 professions of faith with over 330 rededications as these missionaries held church services and ministered to the medical and dental needs of the people. It's wonderful that the Garifunas are being led to Jesus who breaks their chains of fear. The team, though small, served 2,202 medical patients, extracted 360 teeth, distributed 325 pairs of glasses and passed out Bibles to 116 families. A house was located where the newly established church would be able to meet and have services.

The first service, held the Saturday night after the team left, had 110 present and on Sunday there were 90 present. The following Sunday, Sunday School had 120 in attendance. There is a Mississippi Baptist Church now planning to return next year and help construct a building in which these new Christians will meet.



Reflections of Love for Missions After 21 Trips to Honduras

I prepared for my 21st medical and dental mission trip with as much anticipation and excitement as I prepared for my first trip in 1981.

Let me tell you about a clinic where people begin to line up at four or five o'clock in the morning, after walking for hours, to patiently wait in line for the doors to open. In this clinic, there is no air-conditioning, no seats for anyone to sit on — the patients will stand in line for hours,

all day long if necessary, sunshine or rain, waiting for their turn to see the physician or dentist.

God led me to Honduras and gave me a desire to minister in His name. He gives me grace day by day sufficient to cope with whatever I face. Our primary purpose in going to Honduras is to meet the spiritual needs of the people and to share the love of Jesus Christ with them. The secondary goal is to provide free quality medical and dental care to impoverished people of the remote villages of this third world nation.

I ask that you pray for those whom God will call to serve, that we might reach the people of Honduras for the Lord Jesus Christ in an even greater way.

Dot Ray
Pontotoc, MS

Dot Ray is a retired R.N. On May 11, 1995 she turned 79 years old. ANYONE with commitment should be able to participate in overseas mission experiences. Mrs. Ray is an excellent example.



If you would like more information about how you can be a part of a medical and dental mission team, contact the Partnership Missions Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.

Family Retreat

July 3-6, 1995

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian, Mississippi



"Family + Fun = Learning"

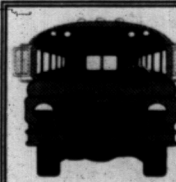


Family events for all ages.

Bring grandparents and senior adults for this experience.

FREE TIME FOR FAMILIES
—Afternoons and all day Wednesday

Pastor or staff who bring 3 families get 1 adult expenses paid! For more information call Discipleship and Family Ministry, 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.



A new church, Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church, located in a transitional community, needs the donation of a used bus or van to pick up children and older persons.

If one is available, please call the Missions Extension Department at the Baptist Building at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.

Pray this day... **June 1-15**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Who can tell how great a blessing Vacation Bible School has been to boys and girls... who can tell what a blessing it has been to churches... and to folks who have ministered by working in VBS? Let's pray especially for VBS.				for VBS faculty members as they prepare and work each day	for nursery workers who keep the children of VBS faculty members	MK birthday: Joel Martin 6-3-86 Casilla 2568 Santa Cruz, Bolivia Parents: Tom and Cynthia General Evangelism MK birthday: Lauren McCall 6-3-86 P. O. Box 52 Limuru, Kenya Parents: Dennis and Margaret Agriculture
for church staff members responsible for VBS	for the children who attend VBS, for the evangelistic efforts made	for church groups planning and carrying out VBS efforts in places other than their local church	for people at the Home Mission Board as they match volunteers with places of need this summer	for student summer missionaries scattered around the world	for summer staffers at Gulfshore, Central Hills and Garaywa	for campers at Gulfshore, Central Hills, and Camp Garaywa
for children whose health conditions will not allow them to be campers	for children whose financial conditions will not allow them to be campers	MK birthday: Rob Dent 6-13-84 #7 Jalan Pelangi Singapore 1026 Republic of Singapore Parents: Don and Anne Associate to the Area Coordinator	for children who must stay home alone while parents work	MK birthday: Jason Hendricks 7-15-79 Apartado 1010-7050 Cartago, Costa Rica Parents: Larry and Mary General Evangelism MK birthday: Christopher Sills 6-15-83 Casilla 17-03-533 Quito, Ecuador Parents: Michael and Mary Theological Education	Prayer Ministry Office P. O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530 Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY	

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Church Music Department
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205
(601) 968-3800 or
1-800-748-1651

For registration contact:

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
100 First Street
Pass Christian, MS 39571
(601) 452-7261



Gulfshore Young Musicians' Camp

June 23-27, 1995

Guest Conductor - Don Odom

Send registration to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571. Brochures and registration forms are available from Gulfshore, phone (601) 452-7261. Ask your church secretary or pastor if they have received one.

Blue Mountain Young Musicians' Camp

July 24-28, 1995

Guest Conductor - John Langworthy

Send registration to the Church Music Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

For more information about the Young Musicians' Camps, contact the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.

HOUSE TOPS

Central Hills...It's Time for Fun

RESIDENT CAMP

The total fee for Resident Camp (boys entering grade 4 through seniors) is \$90.00. [This includes the registration fee, a snack fee (snacks twice each day Monday - Thursday), a crafts fee (up to two craft projects), lodging, meals and limited supplemental insurance.] This fee is payable in full with the registration form. *Please make checks payable to Central Hills Baptist Retreat.* Refund of fees can be made **no later than 15 working days** prior to your camp session date. Substitution of a camper is allowed. If you make a substitution, please provide the necessary records for each boy when he comes to camp. The "parent's authorization" signature is required.

Refunds are forfeited if not requested by the time specified. In emergencies a cancellation fee of \$20.00 will be charged if a cancellation is necessary within that 15 day period.

1995 Summer Missions Resident Camp for ROYAL AMBASSADORS AND CHALLENGERS

June 19-23
June 26-30

July 10-14
July 17-21
July 24-28

Lad & Dad WEEKEND CAMP

June 23-24

July 14-15

CAMP ACTIVITIES

The campers will be involved in the following activities:

Lakeside Worship Service
Flag Assembly
Mission Emphasis
Handicrafts
Canoeing on a 16-Acre Lake
Horseback Riding on the Trail
Archery: 35# recurve Bows
Tether Ball & Four Square
Skit Nights: Campers & Staffers
Morning Watch Devotion
Bible Study
Swimming in a Jr. Olympic Pool
Campcraft Skills Instruction
Riflery: Prone Position .22 Range
Adventure/Challenge Ropes Course
Field Games
Campfire Worship Service

For more information about these camps or if you would like to register, contact Central Hills Baptist Retreat, P.O. Box 723, Kosciusko, MS 39090-0723 (601-289-9730)



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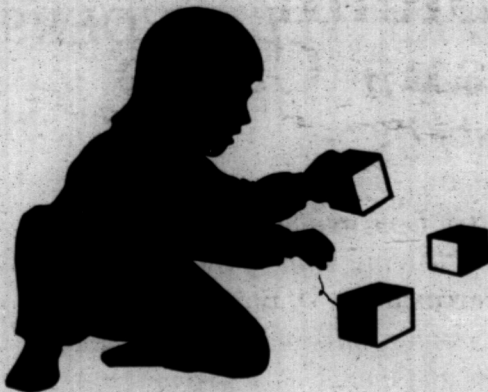
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Leaders of Youth
Leaders of Children
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General Officers
Dedicated Lay Leaders

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Noon Thursday**

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or all!**



For more information, contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.



with
Keith Naylor

SUPER SUMMER '95

July 24-28

Mississippi College, Clinton

Super Summer Mississippi is for the young person who is a mature and responsible Christian leader. Mississippi College is the host for Super Summer, July 24-28. Young people attending Super Summer Mississippi spend approximately 20 hours in evangelism and discipleship training. Quality youth leaders from our state lead our youth in study. Youth are trained in how to share their faith, how to have a quiet time, how to memorize scripture, how to find God's will for their lives, and more. They are also challenged and equipped to utilize their talents and penetrate their culture for Christ in creative and effective ways. Throughout Super Summer young people are encouraged to use the freedom they have in Christ to change the world.

Request For Registration Packet

Name _____
Church _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
Please send a registration packet.

Return this form to:

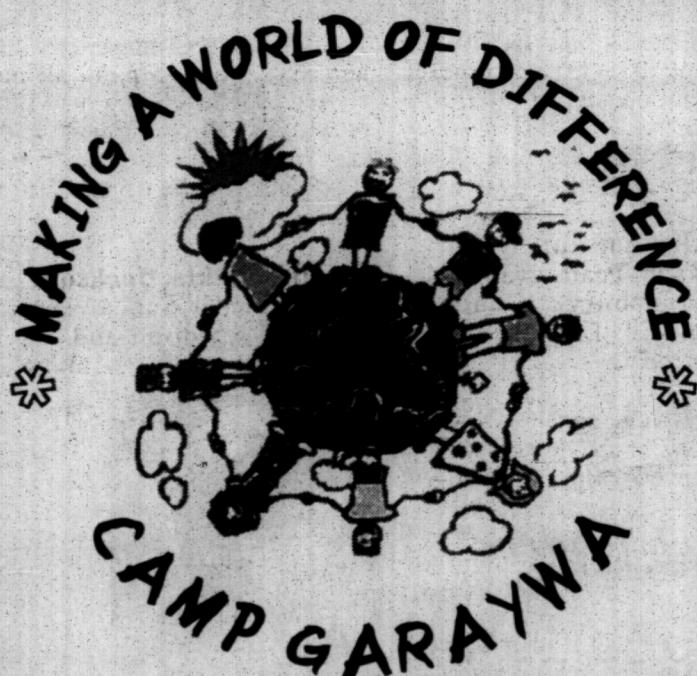
Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept.

Miss. Baptist Convention Board

P.O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205-0530

All applications received after June 30 will be subject to a \$25 late fee. No application will be received after July 7.



The hills of Garaywa have echoed with the happy voices of boys and girls assembled in weekly camps since 1947. In its history, Camp Garaywa has hosted camps for GAs, RAs and other state mission organizations.

Today Garaywa offers a beautiful wooded setting for the summer GA and Acteen camps that it hosts. Below you will find opportunities for your girls and young women at Garaywa this summer.

GA CAMP

July 3-7

Place: Camp Garaywa, Clinton
Time: Arrive Monday at 10 a.m. and pick up Friday at noon
Cost: \$85.00 (includes meals, lodging, limited insurance, crafts, snacks, and a theme T-shirt)
Highlights: swimming, archery, crafts, adventure course, missionaries, Bible studies, skits, music, creative worship, cookouts, campfires and more!

GA MOTHER/DAUGHTER OVERNIGHT

July 21-22

Place: Camp Garaywa, Clinton
Time: Arrive on Friday at 4 p.m. and depart Saturday at 3 p.m.
Cost: \$23.00 (includes meals, lodging, limited insurance, and crafts)
Highlights: swimming, crafts, adventure course, missionaries, creative worship, music, skits, campfires and more!

ACTEENS/LEADERS WEEKENDERS

June 9-11

July 7-9

Place: Camp Garaywa, Clinton
Time: Arrive on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. and depart Sundays at noon
Cost: \$50.00 (includes meals, lodging, limited insurance, crafts, snacks, and a theme T-shirt)
Highlights: swimming, adventure course, missionaries, creative Bible studies, campfires skits and more!

Space for these camps is limited so make plans to sign-up TODAY!

If you would like to register for any of these camps, contact the WMU Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 968-3800 in Jackson or 1-800-748-1651.

HOUSE TOPS

Homecomings

Mt. Zion (Lincoln): June 4; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; covered dish dinner in family life center; afternoon memorial service; David Carlton, pastor.

Lone Star, Collins: June 4; 20th anniversary; all-day celebration; for more information, call (601) 765-3185.

Antioch (Simpson): June 4; Sammy J. McDonald, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds; afternoon singing with the Pleasant Valley Quartet of Mendenhall.

Calvary, New Augusta: June 4; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Emmett Boone, former pastor, guest speak-

er, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Roger and Sharon Blackwell, and other singers will participate in a "Sing," 1 p.m.; Clay Ingram, pastor.

Liberty (Carroll): June 4; 10:45 a.m.; Ron Ballard, Carroll/Montgomery director of missions, guest speaker; dinner at the pavilion; afternoon singing; Louis Fitzgerald, pastor.

Indian Springs, Petal: June 4; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; Doug Rouse, former pastor, guest speaker; Randy Cuchens, former music minister, music; lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon service, 1:15; former Ensemble, music; Floyd Seymour, pastor.

Golden Gate awards 84 degrees

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — Golden Gate Seminary awarded degrees to 84 students representing 18 states and seven countries during spring commencement ceremonies May 19.

Golden Gate is one of six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries and the only SBC agency in the West. It operates campuses in California, Oregon, and Arizona.

Vacation Bible Schools

Hopewell (Choctaw): June 12-16; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; all ages; Charles Rook, pastor.

New Hope, Foxworth: June 5-9; 8:30-11:30 a.m. for preschool through 6th grade.

Strong Hope, Wesson: June 5-9; 8:30-11:30 a.m.; promotion, June 9, 7 p.m.

Byram (Metro): June 11-16; 6:30-9 p.m.; Preparation Day, June 10, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Names in the News

Thursday, June 1, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Frances L. Smith (left) received a plaque from her granddaughter, Melissa Smith, honoring her for over 10 years of service as director of the Youth Bible Drills for Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale. Jerry Mixon is pastor.

Charles McCollum has resigned as pastor of Mount Pisgah Church near Eupora (Choctaw Association). He is available for pastorate, interim, or supply preaching. Contact him at: Rt. 1, Box 210, Magee, MS 39111; telephone (601) 849-2052.

A reception honoring **Emogene Harris** upon her retirement as a foreign missionary will be held on June 4, 2:30-4:30 p.m., at First Church, Brandon. At 3:30 p.m., a special presentation will be made to her. Harris has served 35 years in Nigeria. Her most recent



assignment was General Evangelism in Enugu, Nigeria. A native of Rankin County, she is a graduate of the Mississippi University for Women and New Orleans Seminary.

Ricky Summers, a native of Attala County, received the doctorate of ministry degree in commencement ceremonies held May 11 at Great Plains Baptist College and Divinity School, Sioux Falls, S.D. Previous schools of study were New Orleans Seminary and Andersonville Seminary. Summers is pastor of Old Pearl Valley Church, Philadelphia.



WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Carolyn McClendon, a veteran home missionary will be leaving the streets of New Orleans, where she has "put her life on the line," for a lectern in a Wake Forest, N.C., classroom. A missionary

with the Home Mission Board since 1981, she has been called to teach at Southeastern Seminary. McClendon, who is the first woman appointed to the seminary's faculty under the current administration, will be an instructor in Christian Education.

Margaret Payne, assistant professor in the School of Nursing at William Carey College, will represent Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF) at the Women's Leadership Conference of the Women's Department of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 26-Aug. 5. BNF participation in the conference is aimed at forming Baptist nurses' organizations in other countries represented by BWA.

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Revival Dates

Calvary, New Augusta: June 5-7; 7 p.m.; Burl Patterson, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Roger and Sharon Blackwell, music; Clay Ingram, pastor.

Concord, Pelahatchie: June 4-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; noon lunch daily; Steve Jackson, Pearl, evangelist; James Stansbury, Concord Church, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.

Faith, Utica: June 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Al Spring, evangelist; Marshall Killcrease, pastor.

Memorial, Richton: June 8-

11; Sunday, 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and covered dish dinner; Thurs.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Bible Conference, Thurs. and Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., all meals served at church; Gray Allison, president, Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, evangelist; Larry Davis, New Hebron, music; Leonard Walters, pastor.

Van Winkle, Jackson: June 11-14; regular Sunday services: Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; James Fancher, evangelist; R.L. and Beth Sigrest, music.

Hardy, Grenada: June 4-8; 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Tim Sisk, Clinton, evangelist; Robert Andrews, Jackson, music; J. Courtney Selvy, pastor.

Wieuca Road, Atlanta, hosts alternate conference

Wieuca Road Church, Atlanta, will host a pre-Southern Baptist Convention conference, "Building His Church," on June 18-19. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, June 18, and conclude Monday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m.

Purpose of the conference, according to coordinator Don Letzring, pastor of Wellwood Church in Tampa, Fla., is to "enable pastors, staff, and lay-people to hear some of the most gifted Southern Baptist preachers without any regard to labels or convention position."

Speakers will include: Phil Lineberger of Tyler, Texas; William Hull of Birmingham, Ala.; Brian Harbour of Richardson, Texas; Ralph Langley of Huntsville, Ala.; Jim Dennison of Atlanta; Dan Francis of Nashville; Richard Jackson of Brownwood, Texas; Jess Moody of Chatsworth, Calif.; and Ralph West of Houston, Texas.

For more information, call Letzring at (813) 238-4668.

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SEE THE GREAT Passion Play in Eureka Springs, Ark. \$31 Pkg for Groups now includes the Best (\$13) Tickets, plus lodging & meals! Where One Call Does It ALL: Keller's Country Dorm Resort (501) 253-8418.

POSITION AVAILABLE: New Mexico Girls Ranch is seeking married Christian couples to serve as houseparents for girls ages 10-18 in a country setting. Compensation includes salary, room and board and benefits. Training is provided. If interested, call the Personnel Department at (505) 881-3363 or send resume to: Houseparent, P.O. Box 92511, Albuquerque, NM 87199-2511.

CHESTER BAPTIST CHURCH in Ackerman, Miss., is looking for a full-time minister of activities and youth. Please mail resumes to: Chester Baptist Church; Rt. 3 Box 110-A, Ackerman, MS 39735 or call (601) 387-4490 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. M-F.

NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH, Brookhaven, Miss., is seeking a full-time Minister of Music and Youth. Send resume to: 2404 New Sight Drive, Brookhaven, MS 39601. Phone (601) 833-2433 or (601) 833-5786.

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Uniform

When power is misused



By Greg Potts
1 Kings 11, 12

Americans seem to be obsessed with the desire for power and prestige. Unfortunately, this obsession has affected the leadership style of many ministers—they see themselves as CEOs, barking orders for their people to carry out. They will cite 1 Peter 5:2-3 as biblical support for this type of leadership. However, while the pastor is to lead the church, that power can be misused and abused.

Israel had enjoyed many years of good leadership from David and his son, Solomon. Upon Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam became king of Israel. Hearing of Rehoboam's ascension to the throne of Israel, Jeroboam returned to Jerusalem from his exile in Egypt to plead with Rehoboam to lighten the heavy tax load the people were under. Solomon, Rehoboam's father, had taxed the people heavily to finance his building projects.

Upon hearing this plea, Rehoboam summoned his father's advisors to ask for their opinion in this matter. The trusted elders told Rehoboam, "If you will be a servant to this people today, will serve them, grant them their petition, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever" (12:7). After hearing this advice, Rehoboam then invited his peers in for advice. Their advice was far different from that of older, wiser men. They informed Rehoboam that he should crack the whip and seize control of the country quickly! Instead of lowering the taxes on the people, he should raise the taxes and prove to the people that he is now boss!

After a few days Jeroboam and the people returned to hear Rehoboam's decision. Rehoboam informed them that instead of lowering their taxes, he would raise their taxes. In so doing, he forsook the advice of the elders and led to the division of the nation of Israel. Rehoboam had misused his power as king and it cost him and the people of Israel.

Sadly, that same thing happens regularly in churches all across our land. If it is not a minister it may be a lay-person who attempts to seize control of the church through the use of power and, inevitably, hurts the church in the process. As we look at these verses, we learn several things:

Seek advice from the right people. One of the methods I have always used in seeking to discern God's will in making decisions is talking with some trusted friends. I emphasize the word *trusted*. Most people are willing to provide you with advice if you ask for it and many will offer it even if you do not ask; however, we need to be careful and seek advice from the right sources.

Rehoboam is a clear example of a failure to get advice from the right people. He listened to the elders but didn't follow their advice. Instead, he took the advice from the younger men and made a mistake.

Learn the true meaning of leadership. Rehoboam was like many today—he felt leadership was all about power. That is not true. Leadership is earned as trust is built.

I heard about a pastor who, upon moving to a new church, showed a video the first Sunday he was there from a well-known Christian leader appealing to the congregation to give their new pastor the "latitude to lead." The pastor then proceeded to lay out his demands to his new congregation. As he listed demand after demand, one wise, elderly saint leaned over to her son and said, "He sure wants a lot on credit."

Leadership is not about giving orders but providing an example for others to follow. As this is done, one is able to lead.

Avoid the mistakes of the misuse of power. Because of Rehoboam's mistaken grab for power, the nation of Israel split, not to be reunited until after their return from exile. The 10 northern tribes formed their own nation and Jeroboam was their leader. The only tribe remaining for Rehoboam to govern was Judah.

From this point on, the nation of Israel was not the dominant force it once was under the leadership of David and Solomon, due to misuse of power by a young king. Unfortunately, the same thing happens in churches. Churches that were once strong and vibrant are divided due to misuse of power by a petty tyrant.

Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

Bible Book

Confrontation in Jerusalem



By Sylvia Fleming
Mark 11

As Jesus prepared to make his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, he chose to ride upon a colt, a very appropriate means of transportation for peacetime. The period in which he lived on earth is referred to as the *Pax Romana* (Roman peace). During his earthly life, there were no major wars. People who were in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' entry spread their outer garments upon the colt before Jesus mounted. Others contributed to the trip Jesus was making by cutting branches and spreading them along the way. They went before him saying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." The crowd wanted deliverance from the Roman Empire.

The Romans allowed a great amount of religion, but still the Jews wished to rule themselves. The Sanhedrin Court was the head of the Jewish politics; however, its head was appointed by the Roman government. The Roman government also selected the Jewish high priest, the head of the Jewish religion. The Jews had to pay taxes to the Roman Empire. After Judea became a province, its citizens had three taxes to pay: a land tax, an empire tax, and a head tax. During Jesus' ministry, the taxes were a serious matter to the Jews (Packer, et al, *Bible Almanac*, 183-184). They were ready for the kingdom of David to be ushered in, knowing they would no longer be under Roman rule. Thus, they were doing their best in their humble ways to "roll out the red carpet" for Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. They were ready to accept Jesus as King of Kings—not because they were ready for Christ to be Lord over them, but because they were seeking deliverance.

Upon entering the city, Jesus went to the temple because it was the city's focal point. Had the whole of the Jewish people been prepared for the kingdom age, it could have been ushered in at that time. However, when Jesus reached the temple, he found no repentant hearts, but money-changers instead. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often would I have gathered thy children together as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not. Behold your house is left desolate;... ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord" (Luke 13:34-35). Until a repentant Israel could say those heartfelt words, they would not see Jesus in the temple. The place of worship would no longer be used for that purpose. Since Jesus was no longer ready to deliver the nation from bondage, those same people who "rolled out the red carpet" would soon shout, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" (Mark 15:13, 14).

The many scribes and chief priests were of the Sanhedrin Court and were against Jesus and his teaching. The Sanhedrin were appointed at will by the ruling nation. Having heard Jesus speak, the Sanhedrin became frightened. They possessed great power and privilege even though they were under Roman rule; they feared losing their control. They were diametrically opposed to the wishes of the common people who sought to come from under the rule of the Romans. They challenged Jesus and his authority. They could not discern any faulty doctrine; however, they questioned his authority. By whose authority did he perform his miracles? Did the Roman Empire give him that authority; if no one on earth gave him authority, then did he have heavenly authority?

Jesus told the chief priests, scribes, and elders that he would answer their questions if they would answer a question for him: By whose authority was the baptism of John? They could not answer because they realized they had been caught in the very trap they had set for Jesus. If that authority came from heaven, then why did the religious leaders not believe Jesus? They did not dare say John's baptism was by earthly authority. They were too afraid of the common man. They realized they had no answer; consequently, Jesus refused to tell them by whose authority he did his wonders.

Jesus would soon answer that question before ascending back to the Father: "All authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18).

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

Life and Work

Encouraging others



By Michael Johnson
Acts 20

There are many defining moments in our earthly pilgrimage—a wedding; the birth of a child; first day on the job; graduation; a hard-earned promotion; the death of a loved one. All of these events woven together make up the rich tapestry of life. This week we will look at one of those moments in the apostle Paul's life as he bade farewell to those he loved in Ephesus.

For the purpose of our study let us examine the passage from the perspective of the Ephesians who were, from all accounts, saying good-bye to Paul for the last time. There were several reasons for this. Paul's stay in Ephesus had been brought to an abrupt end because of a riot (Acts 19); Paul, therefore, met with the church leaders in Miletus. On his way to Jerusalem to deliver the much needed offering, Paul was apparently aware of the plots to kill him. It is clear that Paul did not expect to see the Ephesians again, nor does Scripture indicate that Paul made another visit. Some have suggested that Luke was writing this after Paul's death and he knew that this was Paul's last visit.

The scene before us is heart-rending. The love and care Paul had for these people was evident. He even changed his travel plans so that he might have some time with his parishioners (vv. 16-17). Imagine how eager the church leaders were to be with Paul. Reflect on how carefully they listened to these "last words" and the importance they carried.

Encouraging by example (vv. 18-19). We must remember that this visit comes after Paul's confrontation with the Corinthian church in which he had to defend himself rather vigorously against false charges. Paul was obviously reminding church officials of how he had served alongside them. Paul's message was not only validated by the truth with which he spoke, but by the life he had lived! We should observe that even today others will remember our actions more than the words we speak.

Encouraging by teaching and proclaiming (vv. 20-21, 27). Paul reminded his listeners that he had boldly witnessed to all people regarding the gospel message. Paul had shared the Truth as an obedient servant of God—neither sugar-coating it in order to gain favor or watering it down in order to avoid ridicule and persecution. How willing are we to stand up for God's truth?

Encouraging by warning (vv. 28-31). Paul did not misrepresent the task that was before the church leaders. The church that sought to proclaim the good news of the living Christ would place itself in danger. The sufficiency of Christ, however, would be able to meet those dangers. The dangers will come from two directions. First there will be those outside the church who seek to persecute and tear down the witness of the believers. Interestingly, the more dangerous foe will be found inside the community of faith that will seek to confuse and frustrate the church's mission. Even today we must be on guard with the full realization that we may unwittingly give "comfort to the enemy" through our inability of working through internal distress.

Encouraging by giving (v. 35). "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Only here are these words of Jesus preserved, and how true they are. I would guess that for most of us we receive more joy and pleasure from giving gifts as opposed to receiving them. Today we live in a self-centered society that is always in search of how to please itself. This one principle could radically transform our world. What better way to start this transformation than by embodying the spirit of giving in our individual and corporate lives?

Encouraging by loving (vv. 36-37). Paul had been more than a teacher and preacher to these church leaders. He had been their caring friend. This is a beautiful picture of the close community that the Lord wishes for all of his churches. Beyond the task and mission of the church which is so crucial, there is a unity and spirit of love that binds her people together. That love comes only from the reality of Christ abiding in the fellowship, and it is to that end we must continually strive.

Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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JAN. 31, 1995

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(to be continued)



Staff from The Baptist Children's Village and the Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center recently completed 70 hours of Challenge/Ropes Course Facilitator Training. Instructors for the training were John Nowlin, Director of Staff and Child Development and Jerry Jackson, Counselor, both at The Baptist Children's Village. Such training is necessary to prepare staff to facilitate groups of young people in Ropes Course therapy groups this summer. Pictured (above, left to right) are: front, Michael Phillips; second row, John Nowlin, Elke Cox, Jill Nicholas, Darlene Day, Jerry Jackson; third row, A.J. Stubbs, Shirley Long, Kimberly Carnes, Dee Star, Keith May, Chip Price. All participated in the 10-day training.



Shirley Long (Chemical Dependency Center) is stretching her endurance as she approaches the top of a 42-foot wall. The wall is the climax to the 70-hour training on several elements.



Darlene Day (MBMC Chemical Dependency) prepares for a simulated rescue on the "Postman's Walk" or "Two Man Bridge," an element on the Ropes Course on The Baptist Children's Village India Nunnery Campus.



Rick Burton, pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Independence, takes a pie in the face from Gary Walker, chairman of deacons. Burton agreed to the prank Easter Sunday if the church would pass its \$1,600 goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. The church received a total of \$2,585.75. (The Democrat photo by Amy Peebles)

capsules

SBC MAY DENOUNCE PAST ROLE IN RACISM: ATLANTA (ABP) — When Southern Baptists meet this summer to celebrate their 150th anniversary, they may be asked to repent of the racism most agree played a central role in the founding of their denomination. Two Southern Baptist Convention agencies and a group of Baptist leaders from metropolitan areas have submitted resolutions on racial reconciliation to the SBC Resolutions Committee. The committee will decide whether or not to make a proposal to messengers at the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta June 20-22. All three proposals note Southern Baptists' connection to slavery in the last century and call on today's Baptists to repent of racial bigotry in their own lives. "We acknowledge that slavery is where we began," said Jere Allen of Washington, D.C., a leader of the movement. The SBC Christian Life Commission hosted a "Racial Reconciliation Consultation" May 22 in Nashville. Participants, including about equal numbers of Anglo- and African-American Southern Baptists, produced a resolution for consideration, according to a CLC release.

17 BAYLOR ALUMNI ASK SLOAN FOR ACTION ON ABORTION PILL: WACO, Texas (BP) — The issue of abortion now confronts Robert Sloan as he assumes Baylor University's presidency June 1. A group of 17 alumni of the Baptist-affiliated university in Waco, Texas, have targeted Houston-based Baylor College of Medicine's testing of the controversial "abortion pill" RU-486 and asked Sloan to distance the university from the medical college. "We feel that the medical school no longer deserves to bear the name of our great university," the alumni stated in a May 25 news release. They asked Sloan to initiate two actions after his inauguration.

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS, ASSEMBLIES TOPS IN CONGREGATIONAL GIVING STUDY: NASHVILLE (BP) — A national congregational giving study shows two conservative denominations, Southern Baptists and Assemblies of God, with the highest per capita giving — and pledging as a common factor. The American Congregational Giving Study had five church bodies as participants in what officials said covered the "whole spectrum of Christian denominations in this country, the breadth of the study far exceeds any ever attempted." Commissioned by the Lilly Endowment, Inc., the 1993 study surveyed 525 congregations, 125 in each of five major church bodies in the United States: Assemblies of God, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Roman Catholic Church, and Southern Baptist Convention. The study found that more evangelical or denominationally conservative beliefs are definitely associated with higher levels of giving; and that people dedicated to a tithe give the most, followed by those who decide on an annual percentage of income to be donated. Those who decide how much to give on the spot each Sunday give the least.

ALABAMA CITIZENS MOBILIZE TO STOP GAMBLING: MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP) — "Our purpose is to assure that Alabama citizens, not organized crime, hold the future of our state." That opening volley by emcee Mickey A. Kirkland, pastor ofighthouse Church, Montgomery, Ala., set the tone of an anti-gambling rally in a plaza fronting the Alabama's State House. Aware of the bad experience other states have had with the onset of legalized gambling, more than 400 citizens from every part of Alabama gathered May 9 to register opposition to a bill to authorize a statewide election in which gambling forces hope voters will approve a change in the state constitution to legalize casino and lottery gambling.

First person...

Nurses find medical, spiritual needs on annual mission trip to Mexico

By Debbie McElveen

One of the primary purposes of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF) is to provide Christian professional fellowship to strengthen, individually and collectively, the relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ.

BNF is rooted in missions, and one of our projects we look forward to is a week-long trip to Mexico to provide much-needed medical care to those who cannot afford or obtain it.

I had such a wonderful experience

last summer in Mexico (June 15-July 4, 1994) that I decided to spend my spring break in Mexico. Before returning home, I requested a needs list from the mission compound's director. The top items needed were a computer and a copier.

I did have a friend who came to mind who had a business machine company and I thought he could help spread the word.

It is amazing how the Lord works. The first person I saw when I returned home was that friend. I

started telling him about my trip to Mexico, but I was not going to tell him at that time about my needs.

He persisted so finally I said, "I sure could use your help to locate a computer and a copier."

He said, "No problem. I have

Critical needs (partial list)

Antibiotics	Ziplock bags
Pregnancy tests	Plastic bags
Tylenol	Lice shampoo
Vitamins	Camp supplies
Medications for:	
Parasite treatment	
Diabetics	
Blood pressure	
Heart	
Arthritis	
Eyes & ears	



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I have met a nice man after being widowed four years ago, but my son doesn't like him and won't have anything to do with me. I'm hurt and don't know why he feels this way.

Often it is very difficult for children to accept change in their parents' marriage. Death is never easy to get over, and possibly your son does not want to see you hurt again. There may also be a feeling on your son's part that he can take care of you and he doesn't want you to rely on someone else. Share with your son the need you have for companionship and friendship. Even though your son may be married, he may not understand that you need someone and that children and grandchildren cannot replace the loneliness brought on by the loss of a spouse. If your son will not listen, find someone like a pastor or good friend who will talk with your son and explain your feelings to him.

My father has controlled and manipulated me for all of my 27

years, and now he's causing problems in my three-month-old marriage. How can we fend him off?

It is good that you say, "we." You and your spouse must handle this together or you will be divided and conquered. Devise a plan of action with your spouse. Be aware of your father's manipulative techniques, and understand the triggers he uses to cause traps for you. Know the words, tones, and events he employs to create confusion and distress. Pray with your spouse and ask for strength to resist, as well as courage to ask for your spouse's help when you need it. Practice saying "no" to your father. If you have an event scheduled, don't change it simply to satisfy your dad. You and your spouse must decide the direction of your marriage, and if you don't set boundaries you're asking your dad (and others) to step in and tell you what to do. An excellent resource for you in this situation is Tim Kimmel's book, *Powerful Personalities*.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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NMW XOA QPLW TGNZA EMXP HPTAT, SP EMXP
GONLNPO, NMW TND EMXP OYH, XOET TNYXO
XOA QPLW, QAX HD GAPGQA SP, XONX XOAD
HND TALUA HA.

ACPWET AYSOX: PMA.

This week's clue: P equals O.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Genesis One: Twenty-Seven.

several that I will be glad to give." Lord, pick me up off the floor!

He explained that the Lord had been so good to him, his family, and his business that he had to give something back in return.

For many people, the Lord gave the gift of giving. It is of these people I am asking, seeking, and knocking for help. We will be taking an 18-wheeler to Mexico on June 17-July 3, so there will be plenty of space for supplies.

If you have anything you would like to donate, call the Mississippi College School of Nursing at (601) 925-3278 and I will make arrangements to pick up the donations.

The deadline for donations is June 12. All money donated will be used to purchase much-needed medicine.

Through these mission projects we are learning to be disciples of Christ. These valuable lessons will always be part of our lives and we would love to share what we have learned with others.

McElveen is camp nurse at Gulfshore Assembly and a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

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